

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

24 OCT. 1961

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Marshal Malinovsky's
anti-ballistic missile
claim

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The Marshal--who has frequently substituted aspiration for realization in the past--told the Party Congress yesterday that "the problem of destroying rockets in flight has been successfully solved." We do not take this at face value as meaning that the Soviets have actually achieved an operational anti-ballistic missile capability. We do think it possible, however, that they have reached a point in their R & D at which they think success is in sight. We know that their anti-ballistic missile program has a high priority and there are some indications of an early attempt to destroy an IRBM with an nuclear-armed anti-missile missile. However, we have no positive evidence that defensive missiles have yet been fired at incoming ballistic missiles. Malinovsky's statement has not changed our estimate that the Soviets "will probably begin at least limited deployment of an antiballistic missile system in about 1963-66."

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2. Chinese Communist
internal difficulties

The Danish Ambassador, who recently ended a 2-year tour in Peiping, reports that the country has suffered "extraordinary economic setbacks," of a fundamental nature. He attributes them not so much to natural calamities as to institutional defects, primarily the elimination of incentives for the peasantry. Among the results: rations are at a bare minimum, public lassitude has set in, and labor productivity has fallen off visibly.

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3. Soviet Party Congress

a) Chou En-lai left Moscow for home yesterday, probably for consultations with other members of the Chinese Communist leadership on the turn-for-the worse in Sino-Soviet relations which has developed at the Congress, and on what position to take at the session of Communist party leaders that will probably follow the Congress. Defiant to the end, Chou paid homage at Stalin's grave before being seen off by Khrushchev; b) yesterday's Congress session again featured denunciation of the "anti-party group" and Albania. There were strong hints that the latter may be formally expelled from the Warsaw Pact;

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provide further evidence that the Ulbricht regime's internal propaganda has been put somewhat out of joint by Khrushchev's equivocation on the German issue at the Congress.

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4. Congo situation

Deputy Premier Gizenga, still in Stanleyville, is once again seeking military supplies from Cairo. He has specified that he wants small arms and communications equipment for "platoons of troops in combat." Although he may merely be trying to strengthen his Stanleyville stronghold, we do not discount the possibility that he hopes to propel himself into the forefront of the "nationalist" cause by a military move against Katanga.

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5. Nasir shaking up Egyptian officer corps



He has begun to weed out military personnel whose support would be essential to the success of any right-wing plot against him. In the wake of his Syrian setback, Nasir is also intent on getting more momentum into his government machinery and a fairly broad shake-up of the bureaucracy and the country's only political party is in the offing.

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- A. Tension remains high in the Dominican Republic as sporadic rioting continues.
- B. Warsaw Pact activity, which has now subsided throughout Eastern Europe, is scheduled to resume the beginning of next month.

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- C. The Turkish military junta has apparently decided on at least a trial period of civilian government. It announced yesterday that the armed forces have returned to their "basic duty." The step was taken, however, over the opposition of a group within the military which is highly reluctant to surrender control to a coalition of civilian parties.

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Brazil is continuing discussion with Moscow on the resumption of diplomatic relations-begun under Quadros-but is setting conditions which include restrictions on travel and limitations on the number of Soviet personnel.

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